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Butte County Children & Families Commission

Awards Funding

- Over 2 Million Dollars Granted to Local Service Agencies -

Butte County Children & Families recently considered 30 proposals received from local agencies wishing to provide services for young children ages 0-5 and their families. The following is a description of the 10 successful grant proposals funded by the

Commission:

1. **Butte County Department of Public Health awarded \$273,005.** The Children's Dental Health Care Project is an innovative, multi-faceted approach to decrease the incidence of dental disease in underserved children ages 0-5. Focus is on preventing dental caries in young children through intensive education and outreach to targeted group of parents and their young children. Project contact person is Kiyomi Bird, PHN Supervisor - Phone: (530) 538-2147.
2. **California State University, Chico – Research Foundation awarded \$275,000.** OPT for Fit Kids will provide materials and services to child care homes, offer cooking/nutrition classes in high need geographical areas throughout Butte county, and breastfeeding promotion activities. The project will collaborate with other county agencies to provide home visits for families. Project contact person is Cindy Wolff PhD, MPA, and RD – Phone: (530) 898-5700.
3. **Community Action Agency awarded \$100,000.** Expansion of the Child Development Center (CDC) at the Esplanade House. Esplanade House Transitional Shelter will increase the number of families served from 12 to 60, with approximately 120 children. Resources will be provided to hire and train child development staff, purchase age appropriate curriculum and supplies, and provide day to day services, as population grows by 48 families. Project will provide a 12-month period for the Esplanade House CDC to become self-sustaining through collaboration and fiscal management. Project contact person is Mark Murgia, Associate Director – Phone (530) 538-7559.
4. **Butte County Department of Public Health awarded \$275,000.** This initiative will increase and sustain the number of women who breastfeed in order to promote optimal health, cognitive development, and infant-mother bonding. To do so, a new center will be established to provide breastfeeding education and support services as part of a coordinated effort with other community resources to mothers not currently being served due to factors of income, insurance coverage, or language barriers. Project contact person is Cyndi Mann – Phone (530) 538-7704.

5. **Valley Oak Children's Services awarded \$275,000.** Project will use programs and curricula scientifically studied and proven to be effective in the prevention and treatment of conduct disorders in children, and helping child care staff to manage classrooms and family child care home settings. Comprehensive longitudinal evaluation component will be included to measure social and emotional behavior change over both the short term (6 mo) and long term (3yr). Project contact person is Carol Roberts, Executive Director – Phone (530) 895-1677.
6. **Northern Valley Catholic Social Services awarded \$275,000.** Project will expand services offered to pregnant and parenting teens that are enrolled in TAPP (Teen Age Pregnancy & Parenting program). Offers case management to pregnant or parenting teens. Program is free and voluntary with no income guidelines for eligibility. Goal is to reduce the barriers to success. Provides teen parents with the information, support and advocacy they request to assist them in making decisions about their lives and their children's lives. Social workers help teen parents through this life changing time with services such as transportation; staying or returning to school; having healthy babies; labor and delivery; baby items; defining personal, career and family goals; learning about community resources. Teen parents who are otherwise ineligible for counseling services will be served. Project contact person is Robert Michels, Butte and Glenn County Director – Phone (530) 345-1600.
7. **Parent Education Network awarded \$275,000.** Project will augment the Current Young Parents program to include a strong Young Fatherhood component and to expand the program to all of south Butte County. Project will enhance fathers' involvement, and assist them in integrating fully in their child's life, especially during the formative years of 0-5. Increase fathers' involvement with the mother regarding parenting styles and issues (co-parenting), educate fathers on being responsible and being a role model for their children, and to truly integrate the father into the child's life. Project contact person is Dana Campbell, Executive Director – Phone (530) 893-0391.
8. **Youth for Change awarded \$275,00.** Project provides in collaboration with Northern Valley Catholic Social Services, Butte County Department of Employment and Social Services and other service entities, preventative services targeting 0-5 children and their families needing assistance, but not rising to the level of intervention provided by Children's Services. Project will partner with other service agencies to develop a comprehensive network of resources and opportunities in Oroville and surrounding areas to ensure that families receive a customized assessment of need and the appropriate response. Project staff will respond jointly with local service agencies on less serious referrals in order to maximize resources. Project contact person is Yvonne Nenandal, Program Administrator – Phone (530) 872-3896.
9. **Enloe Medical Center awarded \$275,000.** Project enhancements to current program will include an increase the number of babies born substance-free by 10 babies per year for a total of 60 substance-free babies, through collaboration with local obstetricians and hospitals; improve school readiness for children in the Touchstone program and Enloe Children's center by collaborating with library

literacy program, encouraging English skill development, reading to children and teaching mothers techniques to stimulate children's intellect. Project contact person is Jolene Nixon – Phone (530) 332-6831.

10. **Skyway House awarded \$275,000.** Project provides several service components. Firstly, this project addresses the issue of reduction of the number of babies who are born with the effects of alcohol, tobacco, and drugs. Secondly, the program will intervene early in the new baby's care and in the care of the other siblings who stay with the mother during her treatment, to improve parenting, positively affecting the health of children and their ability to develop within normal parameters. The program will provide drug free housing to aid in the development of health, stable support systems, including connection to services such as Early Head Start and Public Health. It is the goal that mothers will leave the program with identified personal contacts who can support them in their continuing recovery and the nurturing of their family. Project contact person is Beth Porter, Program Manager – Phone (530) 876-9436.

"These funding awards will ensure that Butte County's youngest children and families receive much needed services. The Commission made some tough decisions since there were more proposals than monies available. The 20 proposals not funded by the Commission all have merit and speak highly of the interest and dedication of local agencies in providing services. All applicants are commended for their effort", says Cheryl Giscombe, Program Manager for the Commission.

California voters passed Proposition 10 in 1998, adding a 50 cents-per-pack tax on cigarettes to support programs for expectant parents and children ages 0 to 5. Butte County Children & Families Commission was established to distribute Prop. 10 revenues to programs and services designed to give young children the best possible start in life.

Quality investments in early childhood development benefit society as a whole. "If we don't make investments during these years, we miss a critical opportunity to make a difference in how young children think, how they feel about themselves and whether they grow up to be productive members of society" says Dr. Mark Lundberg, Chair of the Commission.

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